DC

42

CATWOMAN™

HOWARD LEON GANDINI

THE CAT AND THE CROW

AGES 13+

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DEATH OF THE JUSTICE LEAGUE

JUSTICE LEAGUE #75

Written by
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Art by
RAFA SANDOVAL

Justice League #75 variant cover by Dan Jurgens

The prelude to
DARK CRISIS

DC

April

™ & © DC

THEN.

SLAM

HOLLY BABY! YOU'RE HOME!

UGH, YEAH. *FINALLY.*

I KNOW IT'S MY JOB, BUT... SELINA?

...I TRULY *HATE* THESE CREEPS.

C'MON, GIRL. I'LL TAKE BETTER CARE OF YOU THAN ANY OF THEM EVER COULD.

...SO I TELL THE GUY "NO, YOU CAN'T TOUCH US," AND HE REACHES INTO MY GARTER AND TAKES BACK A FIVER. LIKE IF HE WASN'T GONNA *TOUCH* ME, I OWED HIM *CHANGE.*

I'LL BURN HIS PLACE DOWN.

HAH! YOU'D DO THAT, SELINA? FOR LI'L OL' ME?

YEAH. I ACTUALLY WOULD.

FOR YOU AND *ANY GIRL LIKE YOU.*

NOW.

BZZT"

Reality has no respect for the **good** dreams.

I'm up.

I'm awake.

HANDS UP, CATWOMAN.

YOU AND THE TOMASSO BOY BOTH. NOBODY MOVE.

NICE OUTFITS. YOU MUST BE EIKO'S *KOBUN?*

WE ARE.

THEN YOU KNOW WE AREN'T ON *GOOD TERMS.*

MR. PRO-W!

CATWOMAN

DANGEROUS LIAISONS PART 4 OF 4

TINI HOWARD STORY **NICO LEON** ART
VERONICA GANDINI COLORS **SIMON BOWLAND** LETTERS
JEFF DÉKAL COVER **JENNY FRISON** VARIANT COVER
SOZOMAIKA 1:25 RATIO VARIANT COVER
JESSICA BERBEY ASSISTANT EDITOR
JESSICA CHEN EDITOR
BEN ABERNATHY GROUP EDITOR

WHATSA MATTER, TOUGH GAL? SCARED OF MY LITTLE KITTY CAT?

MRRRR--

--RROOOW!

SHE'S THE *NICE* KITTY.

WHUD

UNGH!

WHAP

RRRRRYYYOWW!

...AND A FAST LEARNER.

YOU WORK AGAINST US WITH THE *TOMASSOS?*

HE'S A *DEFECTOR,* DARLINGS!

SHIINK

AND A *LOYAL* ONE.

HASIGAWA @#$%--

whap

SHINNK

ENOUGH.

YOU GONNA TELL ME WHY YOU'RE *HERE?*

I BRING A MESSAGE FROM *EIKO HASIGAWA.*

IF YOU'RE DONE TRYING TO TAKE ME *HOSTAGE* IN MY OWN *HOME*, I'M ALL EARS.

HSSSSS

EIKO... COULDN'T COME SEE ME *HERSELF?*

WE DO NOT HAVE TIME FOR PERSONAL MATTERS. YOUR LIFE IS AT *RISK.*

THE FIVE *FAMILIES* OF GOTHAM HAVE NOT *KILLED* YOU YET BECAUSE THEY FEAR RETRIBUTION...FROM THE *BAT.*

BLACK MASK CLAIMS HE CAN MITIGATE THAT THREAT, SO LONG AS YOU'RE *DEAD* AND HE DOESN'T HAVE TO "*WASTE RESOURCES BOTHERING WITH YOU.*"

IF HE CAN CONVINCE A MAJORITY, THEIR BLOOD HUNT IS ON.

AND YOU'LL BE ***DEAD*** BY THE NEXT MORNING.

SULLIVAN'S ***DESPERATE,*** AND I'M ABOUT TO SOLVE A PROBLEM FOR HIM, SO THAT'S ***ONE*** VOTE I CAN GET.

AND ***EIKO*** IS ***TWO--***

--EIKO-SAN ***CANNOT*** DO THAT, SHE REGRETS. BUT SHE HAS AN ***ALTERNATE*** OFFER FOR YOU.

IF YOU CAN GET SULLIVAN AND ***ONE OTHER*** TO FLIP...SHE WILL VOTE TO BREAK THE ***TIE.*** BUT ***NOT*** BEFORE.

...SHE CANNOT RISK BEING SO UNPOPULAR AMONG HER FELLOW LEADERS.

THAT'S CRAZY!

DON TOMASSO WILL SIDE WITH ***BLACK MASK,*** AND YOU ***KNOW*** IT.

ARE WE SUPPOSED TO HOPE THAT PIG ***DRAGOS IBANESCU*** DEVELOPS A SENSE OF ***RESPECT*** FOR HER ALL OF A SUDDEN?

THAT'S NOT FOR EIKO-SAN TO WORRY ABOUT.

EASY FOR YOU TO SAY!

Someone tell ***Eiko-san*** *I* ***recognize her voice.***

THE NEXT DAY.

SO YOU HAVE A PLAN FOR SULLIVAN?

OH YEAH. HE WAS DESPERATE FOR A FIGHTER THAT WOULD BRING A LITTLE INTEREST TO HIS MATCHES AFTER SOME OF HIS ***BEST BOYS*** GOT BEAT UP BY A ***COUPLA GIRLS.****

*LAST ISSUE! --JESS C.

"SO I TOLD HIM I KNOW A FIGHTER WHO WAS ALL TOO HAPPY TO TAKE TIME BEATING THE @$%$ OUT OF THOSE GUYS.

ONYX

"ONLY THING IS NOW I OWE ***HER*** A FAVOR."

THAT'S THE BUSINESS, BABY. ALL FAVORS AND NODS. ***NONE*** OF IT IS WRITTEN DOWN. IT'S ALL JUST ABOUT THE ***FAMILY.***

THANKS.

MY PLEASURE.

HEY, SPEAKING OF WHICH...ABOUT YOUR FAMILY AND YOUR ***NOAH*** SITUATION--

LEMME GET AHEAD OF YOU.

EVEN IF NOAH HADN'T MADE IT CLEAR HE'S WILLING TO LET ME ***DIE*** SO HE CAN TAKE MY SEAT AS THE ***TOMASSO HEIR,*** THERE IS NO ALLOWING FOR ***ME HAVING A BOYFRIEND*** IN MY FAMILY'S LINE OF WORK.

MY MOTHER PROBABLY WOULDA GOTTEN OVER THE GAY THING, LONG AS I KEPT IT ***SECRET.*** BUT SHE'S BEEN DEAD A ***LONG*** TIME.

NOT EXACTLY THE STUFF OF AFTER-SCHOOL SPECIALS, CAT.

YOU DON'T OWE *ME* OR *ANYONE ELSE* A COMING-OUT STORY.

I JUST THOUGHT I'D GIVE YOU MY BEST ADVICE FOR GETTING OVER A *BROKEN HEART.*

WHICH IS?

GETTING BACK TO *WORK.*

A cute waiter who smells good helps too.

*But we'll get to **that** later.*

SO BLACK MASK WANTS ME *DEAD.* YOU SAY THAT BUILDING ACROSS THE STREET IS ONE OF *HIS?*

IT'S NOT RENTED UNDER HIS NAME OR ANYTHING, BUT I WENT THERE ONCE WITH POPS. THERE'S NOTHING CRUCIAL WRITTEN DOWN THERE, YOU KNOW-- MAFIOSOS DON'T SEND *E-VITES.*

I DON'T NEED A POWER MEETING. I NEED LIKE...A ROUTINE APPOINTMENT.

I DON'T KNOW IF HE'D *OUTSOURCE* HIS *PERSONAL SCHEDULE...*

DARIO. BE SMART. YOU THINK *BLACK MASK* SCHEDULES HIS OWN *TEETH CLEANINGS?*

DO YOU EVEN KNOW WHO SCHEDULES *YOURS?*

UHH...I MEAN...SOMEONE WHO WORKS FOR MY DAD...I GUESS?

SOME *GIRL,* DARIO. THOSE PRICKS ALWAYS HIRE *SOME GIRL* TO DO THEIR SCHEDULES.

YOU SIT *HERE.* NO *PEPPER SPRAY.* I NEED YOUR *EYES* AND NOTHING ELSE.

THERE'S *NO WAY* SIONIS ALLOWS *CAMERAS* IN THERE, BUT I THINK I CAN MAYBE USE A CAMERA FROM THE STREET POINTED AT A WINDOW.

PERFECT.

YOU'RE JUST GONNA *WALK* IN THERE?

WHAT'RE THEY GONNA DO? *KILL* ME?

I don't feel great about having to **lie** to a kind stranger...

But necessity is a **mother** after all...

≒SOB!≒

I'M ***SO SORRY!*** I'M ≒SOB≒ A ***MESS!*** I'M SUPPOSED TO BE ***TEMPING*** ON THE ***THIRD FLOOR.*** I WENT OUT ON MY LUNCH TO GET THIS ***TEST***--

--AND OH GOD, I WAS SO SURE IT WOULD BE ***NEGATIVE*** THAT I ≒SOB≒ JUST DROPPED MY PURSE AT MY DESK AND TOOK MY SHOPPING BAG TO THE ***BATHROOM,*** AND NOW I'M ***IN HERE WITH NO PHONE***--

OH HONEY. OKAY. ***CALM DOWN.***

...I CAN'T JUST...***GO TO THE OFFICE*** WITH A STICK I ***PEED*** ON... BUT I NEED TO GET MY PHONE AND CALL MY BOYFRIEND, HE'S GONNA BE ***SO PISSED***--

DON'T WORRY ABOUT ***HIM!***

LET'S, *UH,* SET THAT DOWN, *UH* RIGHT THERE. I'LL WATCH IT WHILE YOU GO GET YOUR PURSE. BELIEVE ME, I'VE ***BEEN*** HERE.

Brenda really just **works** here. Sionis doesn't get his own oil changed or book his own colonics.

Like most important men, he relies on a woman for that--**one he barely knows.**

We've all had an @#$%#@% boss. Like **you've** never worked for a guy who could maybe be a super-villain on the weekends.

She, however, **radiates** good.

CATWOMAN, I GOT A STRAIGHT SHOT DOWN THE HALLWAY AND IT'S WIDE OPEN, IF YOU HURRY.

YEP. MOVING NOW. KEEP ME POSTED, DARIO.

BEEP!

I JUST NEED SOMETHING SOON.

I CAN'T TRUST THE SMALLER FISH TO VOTE MY WAY. I NEED TO GO FOR THE BIG SHARK.

YOU BETTER HURRY, SELINA--

2022

--SOMEONE'S COMING THAT WAY.

SELINA!

HEY, YOU THERE!

THERE'S NO COFFEE IN THE MEETING ROOM. AND I ASKED FOR THIRTY COPIES A'THIS LIKE AN HOUR AGO?

AIN'T ONE OF YOU GIRLS SUPPOSED TO BE ON THAT?

OH, OF COURSE.

SO SORRY, SIR.

A momentary bit of acting to return Brenda's pass and make sure she's not implicated--she just helped one of the new girls, after all...

"NOW GET YOUR BILL FROM THAT CUTE WAITER AND SCRAM, DARIO.

"AND KEEP YOUR HEAD DOWN. IF YOU WANT TO DO SOMETHING NAUGHTY..."

"...YOU CAN *STIFF* THAT WAITER ON HIS TIP--I *ASSURE* YOU HE DOESN'T NEED IT."

I FIND IT HARD TO BELIEVE THAT A COFFEE SHOP WAITER MAKES ENOUGH TO AFFORD THE SAME *COLOGNE* AS YOU.

Only tonight in display

The Choker of the Four Seasons

WHAT'S THE MATTER, *VALMONT?* DON'T LIKE IT IF YOU'RE NOT THE ONE DOING THE STALKING?

YOU DID GOOD. THE KID HAD *NO* IDEA.

I ASSUMED WE WERE NO LONGER SPEAKING. I DO NOT *PRESS* MYSELF ON PEOPLE.

YOU JUST *STALK* THEM.

DID YOU REALLY THINK I WOULDN'T KNOW?

I THOUGHT IT WAS A BIT OF *FUN,* ACTUALLY.

BLACK MASK WANTS YOU *DEAD?*

YOU'RE *NOT* MY BODY-GUARD.

YOU'RE A SOCIETY *CRIMINAL.*

AMONG OTHER THINGS.

SO BE A *CRIMINAL* FOR ME.

I ENDEAVOR TO PROVIDE.

ANYTHING I CAN DO FOR YOU--

A FORGERY. THE *BEST ONE YOU CAN MANAGE.*

AND *FAST.*

ONE MOMENT.

SOMETHING BEAUTIFUL KEEPS CATCHING MY EYE...

ENOUGH. I HAVE THREE DAYS TO SOLVE A PROBLEM, OR YOU CAN STALK ME AT THE *CEMETERY.*

IF I CATCH YOU MEDDLING IN THIS, *AT ALL,* I'LL HAVE YOU PUT AWAY.

...

DON'T TEST ME. *YOU'RE A KILLER,* AND I KNOW IT. IT WOULD BE *NOTHING* FOR ME TO HAVE THE *GCPD* LOCK YOU UP *AND* THROW AWAY THE KEY.

REAL *QUIET* NOW?

I'M SIMPLY... IMPRESSED.

GOOD.

Some guys can't stand to ***not*** *help.*

HERE ARE MY SPECIFICATIONS. I NEED IT INSIDE OF 48 HOURS, 36 IF YOU'RE *GOOD.*

HERE'S SOMETHING BEAUTIFUL FOR *YOU* SO WE'RE *SQUARE.*

DON'T SCREW THIS UP.

The only way to keep 'em out of your hair is to give them an assignment.

They can't admit that what they ***want*** *is to be* ***told*** *what to do.*

Nighttime can be a busy time if you know where to look.

Some of us **only** come out at night.

PRRRRR

skreeek!

Dental Star VIP Service

And if you're rich and powerful, there's a whole world that will see you late at night to cater to your every need.

OPEN WIDE, MR. SIONIS?

ZZZZZZZZZZZZ

Even the mundane ones.

So you guard against what you can defend against--

--men with guns, causing pain.

But you can't defend against women like **me.**

You've never even **respected** us enough to study us.

You just made us your **enemy.**

EAT UP, MY FELLOW HIGH ROLLERS!

MY FRIEND DON TOMASSO AND I ARE CELEBRATING! ADMITTEDLY... A BIT EARLY. WE HAVEN'T GUNNED CATWOMAN DOWN IN AN ALLEY *JUST YET.* BUT I GET ***EXCITED.***

TO SOLVING A PROBLEM WITH A ***BULLET,*** MY ***FAVORITE*** WAY TO SOLVE IT.

WE HAVEN'T ***VOTED*** YET, SIONIS.

VOTING. YOU SISSIES. YOU'RE SO SCARED OF ***BATMAN*** YOU'RE LETTING IT TURN YOU FROM ***CRIMINALS*** INTO ***SENATORS.***

CAPULLO'S RISTORANTE, GOTHAM CITY.

TIME WAS, I WOULD JUST DO IT MYSELF. I'D SHOW UP TO DINNER, GRAB YOU BY THE NUTS, AND ***TELL*** YOU THAT WHEN BATMAN SHOWS UP, ***WE LAY HIM DOWN RIGHT BESIDE HER.***

WHAT'S ***WRONG*** WITH YOU TONIGHT, SIONIS? YOU ARE SWEATING LIKE A ***PIG.***

AND WATCH HOW YOU SPEAK TO US. WE ARE ***LORDS*** IN A LAND THAT ***NEEDS*** THEM. I WANT HER DEAD, BUT ***CEREMONY*** MUST PREVAIL.

THEN LET US SETTLE IT ***NOW,*** IBANESCU, AND SAY OUR PIECE.

I WOULD LIKE THE CATWOMAN ***KILLED.*** MY OWN NUMBERS ARE DIMINISHED AT THE MOMENT--

TOMASSO, I GOT YOU, BUDDY. ***I'M*** IN TOO--

QUIET, SIONIS.

YOU ARE ***NOT*** ONE OF US. I MAY LIKE THE STRENGTH OF YOUR FIST, BUT I REQUIRE THE OPINIONS OF MY ***PEERS,*** FIRST.

MR. SULLIVAN?

I *DON'T* WANT HER DEAD.

MAYBE I'M A GOOD CATHOLIC BOY AT HEART. BUT I *DON'T* WANT THIS CITY ON FIRE. I WANNA MAKE *MY MONEY* FROM FOLKS WHO WANT GOOD MATCHES.

I VOTE *NO.*

I DO NOT UNDERESTIMATE THE CAT ANY LONGER. SHE HAS MADE HER TROUBLESOME NATURE CLEAR.

HASIGAWA?

I WITHHOLD UNTIL--

NUH-UH. ***NONE*** OF YOUR FREAKY SAD GIRL @#$%.

IF WE CAN MANAGE WANTING TO BOTH SCREW ***AND*** KILL HER, ***SO CAN YOU.***

CHIKUSHOU!

SLAM

BOSS. I'VE GOT EYES ON THE CAT. SHE'S NEARBY.

GO AHEAD. TAKE HER OUT. I'LL HANDLE THIS LATER.

UGH, IT'S SO HOT IN HERE.

YOU'RE THE ***MASKED PSYCHOPATH*** WE ***SHOULD*** BE HUNTING. WHAT WE DO IS ***RITUAL,*** IT IS ***CODED--***

LISTEN, @#$%--

BOSS?

WHAT?! JUST KILL HER. DON'T MAKE ME SAY IT AGAIN!

I'M... SENDING YOU SOMETHING YOU SHOULD SEE.

HI, **SWEETHEART.** DARIO HELPED ME INTO THE FREQUENCY.

ROMAN. HOW ARE YOU? IS IT HOT IN THAT MASK OF YOURS? I BET.

IT'S A NEARLY PERFECT FORGERY-- I HAD THE **BEST** IN THE WORLD MAKE IT. BUT YOU KNOW, THEY CAN'T USE THE **REAL** THING.

BLACK WOOD FROM YOUR FATHER'S COFFIN. THE MATERIALS AREN'T **QUITE** AS QUALITY, YOU SACRIFICE THAT WHEN YOU NEED SOMETHING QUICKLY.

BUT I'M WEARING THE REAL THING NOW, AND I ASSURE YOU--

IT SMELLS PUTRID.

AND IF YOU FIRE A SHOT, I'LL MAKE SURE IT HITS ME **RIGHT HERE** AND DESTROYS YOUR MASK **ONCE AND FOR ALL.**

YOU'RE **BLUFFING.** IMITATION IS THE SINCEREST FORM OF FLATTERY.

YOU WOULD KNOW, YOU'VE GOT THE **BEST** IMITATION THERE IS. GO ON.

CHECK UNDERNEATH THE RIGHT SIDE. DID YOU CHECK BEFORE YOU PUT IT BACK ON?

OF COURSE NOT. WHO WOULD STEAL YOUR **MASK** WHEN YOU WERE GETTING YOUR TEETH **CLEANED?**

HOW **STUPID** WOULD YOU HAVE TO BE?

GET THIS @#$%#?! THING OFF OF ME!

AND GET CATWOMAN!

BOSS--I'VE GOT HER HEAD RIGHT IN MY SIGHTS, I THINK I CAN CRACK THAT WEIRD FAKE MASK RIGHT IN THE--

DO NOT SHOOT THE MASK! I CHANGED MY MIND. I DON'T WANT HER DEAD.

ROUND UP SOME TOMASSO BOYS AND ANYONE ELSE **CHEAP.**

I HAVEN'T **TORTURED A STRAY CAT** SINCE I WAS A LITTLE BOY, AND I'VE GOT A **CRAVING...**

THE DOCKS, GOTHAM CITY.

HEEEERE, KITTY KITTY--

PSPSPSPS...

KNOCK THAT CRAP OFF.

COME ON, $#@%@, YOU LED US RIGHT TO YOU, WHERE'S MY @#$%^&*@ MASK?

WHAT WAS THAT?!

BRATTATA

BRATTATA

HNG!

WHACK

BOSS--ONE OF THEM JUST KNOCKED OUT JIMMY, THEY'RE HIDDEN I THINK--

@#$% HIM. FORWARD.

BOSS, IT'S A TRAP. THEY'RE ALL AROUND US--

GAH!

FLIK

HRK!

KEEP. MOVING.

YOU THINK I DON'T KNOW THIS IS A TRAP? WHY DO YOU THINK I BROUGHT SO MANY OF YOU WORTHLESS GOONS TO PICK OFF. IT'S ONE WOMAN.

I DON'T CARE IF ANY OF YOU LIVE OR DIE UNTIL I HAVE MY REAL MASK BACK.

AW IS THE BIG BLACK MASK UPSET?

NO WONDER NO ONE LIKES WORKING WITH YOU.

SHUT UP.

I DON'T CARE! I DON'T CARE ABOUT ANYTHING YOU HAVE TO SAY, YOU STUPID CRAZY @#$^~! THAT WAS MADE FROM MY FATHER'S COFFIN--

I KNOW. I KNOW HOW SPECIAL IT IS. MACHINE GUNS AREN'T EXACTLY PRECISE, ROMAN. YOU TRUST THEM TO OPEN ON ME AND NOT DESTROY THIS?

THIS IS SOME VERY NICE WOOD. YOU'VE TAKEN INCREDIBLE CARE OF IT. IT WAS HARD TO REPLICATE.

DON'T... SHOOT HER.

GOOD BOY.

SEE? EVERYONE'S SENSITIVE ABOUT SOMETHING.

YOU MIGHT NOT LET ANYONE IN, BUT A MAN AS CRAZY AS YOU ISN'T THAT WAY BECAUSE HE'S POWERFUL. IT'S BECAUSE HE'S PROTECTING SOMETHING...

SOMETHING THAT TURNS HIM INTO A BIG BABY.

YOU SAID ALL OF THESE FOOLS HAD WEAKNESSES IN WOMEN, BUT YOU WOULD NEVER?

GUESS WHAT?

beep beep beep beepbeepbeepbeepbeepbeep beep beep beep beep beep beep beep

YOU'VE HAD A WOMAN MAKING YOU WEAK ALL ALONG--

KILL HER! KILL HER NOW!

BRATATATATATA

beep beep beep beep beep

KA-BOOM

KA-BAM

--IT WAS ME.

NOOOO--

NGGH-- NNOO--

YES, ROMAN.

THE REST OF US HURT WHEN PEOPLE DIE. BUT PEOPLE ARE JUST *THINGS* TO YOU.

SO I HAD TO TAKE FROM YOU THE ONLY THING THAT *MATTERS.*

OH LOOK. THE *YAKUZA* ARE HERE. AND THEY'RE PARTICULAR ABOUT HOW *ORGANIZED CRIME* IS DONE IN THIS CITY. THEY'RE *NOT* HAPPY WITH YOU.

ROMAN DOESN'T LOOK GOOD. ANY OF HIS *GOONS* KNOW HOW TO TAKE CARE OF A PSYCHOTIC BREAK?

HKK- KKH--

YOU SHOULD LEARN.

HE'S PROBABLY NEVER HAD TO RELY ON HIS *FRIENDS* TO TAKE CARE OF HIM...

LET'S HOPE HE *HAS* SOME.

Speaking of which...

KITTY-KAT HOUSE.

...CATWOMAN?

OH MY GOD, ARE YOU OKAY?

...MAY I COME IN?

I fought for her.

But fighting isn't how we remember the girls who are gone. Her sisters at the club did that for me.

I'm alive for another night. Black Mask is humiliated, **insane** without his mask, gone underground.

And I wish more than anything that Kristi was here to see it.

NEXT:
CAT & HARLEQUIN AT THE ROLLER DERBY!

EARTH-PRIME

The adventures of your
Favorite DC heroes
from THE CW come to comics!

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BATWOMAN • SUPERMAN & LOIS
DC's LEGENDS OF TOMORROW
STARGIRL • THE FLASH

Written by talent from the TV series including

Natalie Abrams • Kelly Larson • Camrus Johnson • Adam Mallinger
Jai Jamison • Andrew N. Wong • Lauren Fields • Daniel Park • James Robinson
Paula Sevenbergen • Jess Carson • Emily Palizzi • JeFF Hersh • Thomas Pound

Art by

Clayton Henry • Tom Grummett • Paul Pelletier • Jerry Ordway • David LaFuente • Will Robson

DC

APRIL
Six 48-page
issues

DC NATION SPOTLIGHT ON

BATMAN THE IMPOSTER

INTERVIEW WITH WRITER MATTSON TOMLIN

Director and screenwriter Mattson Tomlin makes his comic book debut with *Batman: The Imposter*, a thrilling DC Black Label story illustrated by Eisner Award-winning artist Andrea Sorrentino. When a second Batman appears in Gotham—one with no problem murdering criminals—how can the real Dark Knight clear his name?

What was it like to create your own gritty, noir version of Gotham City?

I don't know if a person can do that. You're always standing on the shoulders of the icons that came before you. When something is 82 years old, there's a lot of expectations. There are things Gotham needs to be. There are things Batman needs to be. It's an interesting balance to pay respect and at the same time rock out and push the boundaries a little bit more.

How did you come up with the concept of a Batman framed by an imposter Batman?

From the top down, the whole thing was, "How can I make this feel really, wickedly real?" One of the first things that came to mind was, we are in this era of disagreeing on the construct of reality. It felt like, if you have a guy running around in a bat costume, people are going to disagree about what's really going on there. What's to stop somebody else from doing that, and taking that symbol, and distorting the meaning of it?

What was it like collaborating with Andrea Sorrentino?

Andrea Sorrentino is a wizard. The man is just an absolute genius. It's scary—it's my first comic book, and Andrea just makes me look so good, and so much smarter than I am. And Jordie Bellaire on the colors, too. They were this visual dream team.

I come from film. I'm used to working with a cinematographer, an editor, and actors. Here, I'm the writer and a co-director, and Andrea is the co-director, the cinematographer, and the actors.

Which elements of this story will surprise Batman fans?

Hopefully the addition of Blair Wong, this brand-new character that I think is very cool, and I hope has a life beyond this book. Certainly the fact that I'm not playing with any of the main, big villains—so a couple characters that don't normally get the spotlight get to show up in new and interesting ways.

DON'T MISS *BATMAN: THE IMPOSTER* COLLECTED EDITION, ON SALE NOW!

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SON OF ULTRON

"THIS FAN... THIS MONSTER!"